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THE NEW MUTANTS™

TM

ONE MORE MUTIE TRICK, BOY--

AN' YOUR MAMA DIES!

FLYING DOWN TO RIO!

Stan Lee PRESENTS THE LATEST PULSE-POUNDING ADVENTURE OF THE **NEW MUTANTS**, BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

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BIG SUR, 120 MILES SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO...

HE REMEMBERS THE FLASH OF THE EXPLOSION, THE GROUND COLLAPSING BENEATH HIS FEET AS THE CLIFF-FACE SHATTERED AND FELL INTO THE SEA.

HIS MUTANT STRENGTH AS **SUNSPOT** SAVED HIM--ENABLED HIM TO SMASH BOULDERS BIG AS HOUSES BEFORE THEY CRUSHED HIM AND, **LATER**, AFTER HE HIT THE WATER, TO STAY AFLOAT AND REACH THE SHORE.

A CRY FOR HELP LED HIM TO **SAM GUTHRIE**, STUNNED AND FLOUNDERING--HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM, ESPECIALLY IN THIS ROUGH CALIFORNIA SURF--AND THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE NIGHT, THE **NEW MUTANTS** MADE THEIR WAY TO SAFETY.

ALL, THAT IS, SAVE **ONE**.

IN RETROSPECT, IT HAD SEEMED TO **ROBERTO DaCOSTA** LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD.

FOR HIS TEAM-MATE AND FRIEND, **XI'AN COY MANH**, HE NOW FEARS, IT WAS.

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WE WERE SO HIGH, SO HAPPY -- WE'D RESCUED DANI FROM VIPER, DEFEATED HER AND THE SILVER SAMURAI*...

HOW QUICKLY, HOW COMPLETELY, THINGS CHANGE.

ROBERTO!

HELLO, DANI, SAM, RAHNE.

*LAST ISH -- LOUISE.

WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN*, WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU?!

I WANTED SOME TIME TO MYSELF, TO THINK. I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU.

'BERTO, YOU'RE *SOAKED!*

HERE, TAKE MY JACKET, BEFORE YOU CATCH COLD.

OBRIGADO, DANI -- THANK YOU.

IS THERE ANY WORD, SAM?

NOPE. THE *X-MEN* CONTINUED THE SEARCH AFTER WE WENT TO BED, AN' PROFESSOR XAVIER'S BEEN TRYIN' TELE-PATHICALLY T'SENSE SHAN'S THOUGHTS...

...BUT EV'RYONE'S COME UP EMPTY.

IT'S BEEN DAYS -- I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS THERE'S NO HOPE.

DON'T SAY THAT!

THERE HAS T'BE HOPE, THERE *HAS* TO!

SHAN CANNA BE DEAD!

OCH, DANI, HOW DO WE TELL HER WEE BROTHER AN' SISTER? WHAT WILL BECOME O' THEM?!!

THE PROF SENT US AFTER YOU, BOBBY. I THINK HE FIGURED WE COULD USE THE EXERCISE, WHICH IS WHY HE DIDN'T SIMPLY MINDCALL.

SOME HEROES WE ARE, YOU KNOW, SAM?!

WE DIDN'T EVEN CATCH THE BAD GUYS--SHAN'S KILLERS GOT CLEAN AWAY!

NOT FOR LONG, PAL.

AWAITING THE NEW MUTANTS ARE THE THE X-MEN--MUTANTS, ALSO, GIFTED AT BIRTH WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS THAT SET THEM APART FROM HUMANITY, GATHERED AND HONED BY CHARLES XAVIER INTO AN OCCASIONALLY OUTLAW TEAM OF SUPER-HEROES.

WE HAVE CHECKED EVERY LOCAL HOSPITAL AND POLICE STATION, COMRADE PROFESSOR...

THANK YOU, COLOSSUS.

HERE COME THE KIDS. I'LL TELEPORT OVER WITH SOME HOT COCOA.

THE *DEMON!*

KURT WAGNER IS MANY THINGS, *FRAULEIN*, BUT HARDLY THAT. I AM AS HUMAN AS ANY OF YOU.

HERE, ROBERT, THIS SHOULD WARM YOU UP. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED IT.

I WISH *WOLVERINE* WAS HERE-- WE COULD USE HIS TRACKING ABILITY.*

WHAT ABOUT *ME*, MISS STORM? IN MY WOLF-FORM, I CAN FOLLOW *ANY* TRAIL!

*HE'S CURRENTLY IN JAPAN-- SEE WOLVERINE #31-4--L.

PERHAPS SO, RAHNE, BUT HE HAS FAR MORE EXPERIENCE. HE WOULD RECOGNIZE CLUES YOU MIGHT MISS.

WHY WAS I SUMMONED, PROFESSOR? IS THERE NEWS?

OF A SORT, ROBERTO.

THERE IS SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU.

WHO?
ME!
YOU!?!
ROBERTO, MY LOVE, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, WHAT SORT OF A GREETING IS THAT ?
MOTHER!
BUT-- IF YOU ARE HERE, WITH THE X-MEN, YOU MUST KNOW THAT I AM A MUTANT.
YOUR FATHER WROTE AND TOLD ME.
I NEEDED YOU THEN, DESPERATELY-- ESPECIALLY WHEN *JULIANA* WAS KILLED.
I'M SORRY, 'BERTO. I WAS ON A "*DIG*" IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
YOU ALWAYS ARE.
I'M AN ARCHEOLOGIST. IT IS WORK I LOVE.
MORE THAN ME, SOMETIMES, I THINK. OR FATHER.
I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD, AS QUICKLY AS I COULD.
ROBERTO, YOUR MOTHER WILL SOON BE LEADING AN EXPEDITION TO THE HEADWATERS OF THE AMAZON RIVER. SHE'S INVITED THE NEW MUTANTS TO ACCOMPANY HER.
I THINK THAT'S A SPLENDID IDEA.
WHAT ABOUT *SHAN*-- WE HAVE YET TO FIND HER!

SUCH A JOB IS BETTER LEFT TO THE X-MEN.

SHE WAS OUR FRIEND--WE CAN NO MORE DESERT HER THAN SHE COULD DANI...

...WHEN DANI WAS VIPER'S HOSTAGE!

YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU CAN.

WHO ARE YOU TO GIVE US ORDERS?!

IT'S *YOUR* FAULT SHE'S MISSING--OR *DEAD!*

BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO BUSY SHEPHERDING *TEAM AMERICA* WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELPING *US!*

I AM MASTER OF THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, ROBERTO--*I* AM YOUR TEACHER--AND AS SUCH, SO LONG AS YOU ARE MY STUDENT...

...YOU OWE ME THE LAST WORD...

...AND YOUR *OBEDIENCE.*

IF THAT IS SO, PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME...

...FOR ME TO *QUIT!*

WAS IT WISE TO PROVOKE THIS CONFRONTATION, *MEIN HERR?*

WHAT HARM COULD IT DO TO LET THEM STAY?

THIS SITUATION--SHAN'S DISAPPEARANCE--ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS. THE MOMENT WE ARRIVED...

...I SENSED THE RESIDUE OF A POWERFUL--AND MALEFIC--PSYCHIC ENTITY.

I AM CONVINCED SHAN IS ALIVE--I WOULD HAVE "FELT" HER DEATH--BUT THE ENTITY THAT ATTACKED HER MAY STRIKE AGAIN. IF THAT HAPPENS, I WANT THE NEW MUTANTS FAR AWAY, OUT OF DANGER.

DESPITE THEIR YOUTH, THEY ARE AS COURAGEOUS AS YOU X-MEN. IF THEY KNEW MY SUSPICIONS THEY WOULD MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO SAVE SHAN, WHATEVER THE COST. I WILL NOT PLACE THEM AT RISK.

FOR THE MOMENT, IT IS BEST THEY THINK SHAN DEAD--AND ME A HEARTLESS MARTINET. THEY MAY HATE ME, BUT AT LEAST THEY'LL BE ALIVE.

MEMORIES HAUNT ROBERTO, AS HE TRANSFORMS TO SUNSPOT--

--GOAD HIM INTO A FRENZY: TWO GIRLS--SHAN AND JULIANA SANDOVAL--ONE HIS LEADER, THE OTHER HIS FIRST LOVE.

YET FOR ALL MY ACCURSED POWER--

-- I COULD NOT SAVE THEM!

THEY WERE GOOD PEOPLE--WITH SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR--WHY DID THEY HAVE TO DIE?!?

IT ISN'T FAIR!

IT ISN'T FAIR!

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

I WARN YOU, SAM--

-- DO NOT MOCK ME.

WHEN MY DADDY DIED, BOBBY, AT FIRST AH DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. AH THOUGHT HE WAS PLAYIN' A JOKE--HOLDIN' HIS BREATH OR SOMETHIN'. AN' THEN, LATER, AH HATED HIM.

WE HAD SO MANY PLANS--HIM'N'ME--

--AH WAS GONNA GO T' SCHOOL, MAKE SOMETHIN' O' MYSELF, BUT HIS DYIN' FINISHED THAT DREAM. AH WAS THE MAN O' THE HOUSE, WITH A FAMILY T' SUPPORT. AH COULDN'T DO WHAT WAS BEST F'R ME ANYMORE, AH HAD T' THINK OF MOMMA, MY BROTHERS AN' SISTERS.

YOU TALK IN CIRCLES, SAM. GET TO THE POINT.

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: LIFE ISN'T FAIR, NOT TO YOU OR ANYONE. ALL A BODY CAN DO WHEN HE'S THROWN A CURVE IS COPE AS BEST HE CAN, AN' KEEP ON' LIVIN'.

WE DO WHAT XAVIER WANTS, IS THAT IT?

WE BEHAVE LIKE GOOD LITTLE CHILDREN--AND FORGET SHAN EVER EXISTED?!

DON'T BE STUPID, 'BERTO--OF COURSE WE DON'T--BUT IN THIS CASE, XAVIER'S RIGHT.

IF WE STAY, HE AND THE X-MEN'LL SPEND AS MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT US AS LOOKING FOR SHAN...

... AND *SHE'S* WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

I *MISS* HER, DANI!

WE *ALL* DO, HOTSHOT.

C'MON, MAN, YOUR MOM'S WAITIN'.

RIO DE JANIERO...

...A WEEK LATER...

ITS MOST FASHIONABLE SEAFRONT IS IPANEMA...

...AND ONE OF THE LARGEST, MOST ELEGANT OF THE MANSIONS THAT LINE THE OCEAN IS THAT OF ROBERTO'S FATHER, EMMANUEL Da COSTA...

...CONSTRUCTED A CENTURY AGO BY A PRINCE.

WOW!

EMANUEL GREW UP HERE, A BAREFOOT HOUSEBOY, AND SWORE THAT HE WOULD SOMEDAY OWN THIS PALACE. HIS MOTHER LIVED TO SEE THAT DREAM COME TRUE, TO BE A MISTRESS OF THE ESTATE WHERE SHE WAS ONCE A MAID.

WELCOME HOME, MADAM DaCOSTA.

IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE YOUR PRESENCE GRACED THESE HALLS.

OBRIGADO, SIMÕN. IS MY HUSBAND AT HOME?

THE *SENHOR* IS IN SÃO PAULO, ON BUSINESS, BUT WILL BE JOINING YOU FOR DINNER.

THE STAFF WILL SHOW YOUR GUESTS TO THEIR ROOMS, MASTER ROBERTO, AND SEE TO THEIR NEEDS.

DINNER, YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IS SERVED PROMPTLY AT EIGHT. FORMAL WEAR IS EXPECTED--

--IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

WE LIKE YOU, TOO, BUSTER.

IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME...

BY AGE 20, EMMANUEL Da COSTA WAS A MILLIONAIRE. BY 30, AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, MARRIED TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD. HE LOVED HER WITH ALL HIS HEART AND COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER WHEN SHE BORE HIM A SON.

BUT SOMEHOW, AS THE YEARS PASSED, THE POWER GREW, AND THE DREAM BEGAN TO SOUR. HE SPENT A LIFETIME BUILDING AN EMPIRE, ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF WONDERING, OCCASIONALLY, IF IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT.

I UNDERSTAND SOME OF YOU HAVE VISITED RIO BEFORE.

I HAVE, SIR, WITH A... FRIEND.

IT IS THEN YOU MET ROBERTO, AM I RIGHT?

Uh-huh, YESSIR.

A SAD TIME, THAT WAS, FOR US AND THE SANDOVAL FAMILY.

WHY IS YOUR FRIEND NOT WITH YOU?

SHE IS THE ONE I TOLD YOU OF, EMMANUEL, THE GIRL WHO WAS LOST.

FORGIVE ME, CHILD, I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED.

SO, MY DARLING, WHERE ARE YOU GALAVANTING OFF TO, THIS TIME?

THE *MADERÍA*, EMMANUEL-- THE HEADWATERS OF THE AMAZON-- AS WELL YOU KNOW.

NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

THEY ARE AS HOSTILE AS EVER.

A DANGEROUS JOURNEY, NINA, INTO UNEXPLORED TERRITORY.

YET YOU PLAN SENDING GEOLOGISTS TO THAT VERY LOCALE.

I AM A BUSINESSMAN. I'LL SEND MY PEOPLE ANYWHERE, IF THERE'S A PROFIT TO BE MADE.

WHY? WHAT DOES IT PROVE, WHAT DOES IT GAIN?

WE HAVE MORE MONEY THAN WE CAN EVER SPEND, EMMANUEL, WHAT DO WE NEED WITH MORE?

THUS SPEAKS A WOMAN WHO HAS NEVER BEEN POOR. MY WEALTH-- EARNED WITH MY SWEAT, MY BLOOD-- PAID FOR THIS HOUSE, THE FOOD WE EAT, THE CLOTHES ON YOUR BACK.

WOULD YOU RATHER WE LIVED IN A *FAVELA* SHACK, IN THE HILLS, AS MY PARENTS DID? THAT ROBERTO BE A HALF-STARVED BEGGAR BOY?!

I WOULD RATHER...

...WE BE HAPPY.

I *AM* HAPPY.

THIS COLLAR'S TOO TIGHT, AN' IT ITCHES LIKE CRAZY -- I HATE TIES.

POOR BOBBY. MY FOLKS HAD THEIR SHARE O' SCRAPS, BUT THINGS NEVER GOT THIS NASTY.

WE SHOULD'NA BE HERE. 'TIS NA' RIGHT F'R OUT-SIDERS T' HEAR SUCH WORDS. 'BERTO LOOKS SO EMBARRASSED, I BET HE FEELS AWFUL!

WHAT'S REALLY SAD IS THAT THEY STILL LOVE EACH OTHER. IT SHOWS IN LITTLE LOOKS AND GESTURES, WHEN THEY REACT WITHOUT THINKING.

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU! IN MERCY'S NAME, *SHUT UP!*

DON'T YOU SEE YOU'RE TEARING ME APART?!!

EACH YEAR, MORE OF THE AMAZON BASIN-- THE GREATEST RAIN FOREST ON EARTH -- IS DESTROYED BEYOND ALL HOPE OF RECLAMATION. YOU AND THOSE LIKE YOU ARE ENDANGERING-- PERHAPS SACRIFICING-- THE FUTURE SO THAT YOU MAY RULE THE PRESENT.

IT IS PROGRESS.

MADNESS, YOU MEAN!

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU TO BE AN IDEALIST, NINA...

...BUT I NEVER REALIZED 'TIL NOW, YOU WERE ALSO A *FOOL*.

GOOD NIGHT.

MORNING FINDS THE NEW MUTANTS AND ROBERTO'S MOTHER TOURING THE CITY, TAKING IN THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF CARNIVAL.

IT'S A GIANT PARTY!

YOUR AMERICAN EQUIVALENT IS NEW ORLEANS' MARDI GRAS.

AH'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS.

RIO IS NOTED FOR THEM, SAM.

AND THE CARIOCAS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR UNINHIBITED BEHAVIOR.

WAY TO GO, GUTHRIE!

GOLLY!

HE SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF HIMSELF!

I DUNNO, RAHNE, IT LOOKS LIKE FUN T'ME. MAYBE WE SHOULD GRAB OURSELVES SOME COSTUMES AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION?

DANI, YOU WOULDN'T!

'BERTO, GOT A MINUTE? I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK, ARE THINGS OKAY AT HOME? DINNER GOT KIND'A ROUGH LAST NIGHT. IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?

PRAY FOR A MIRACLE, DANI...

...BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH.

OF ALL THE LOUSY BREAKS...

SAL'S COSTUME SHOP

IF YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF CARNIVAL, DANI, THIS IS THE PLACE TO START.

BY THE WAY, WHATEVER COSTUME YOU CHOOSE, YOU'LL BE WEARING TOMORROW TO THE GOVERNOR'S BALL.

AH'M A COUNTRY BOY, MA'AM. I DUNNO IF AH CAN HANDLE HIGH SOCIETY.

YOU'LL MEET LOTS OF GIRLS, SAM.

WHERE DO AH CHANGE CLOTHES ???

SALES

UMES

NOTIFY ALL UNITS. WE'LL SPRING THE AMBUSH HERE.

SOON...

NOT BAD-- EVEN IF IT IS A TRIFLE MORE MODEST THAN I HAD IN MIND.

LOOK A' ME!

I'M A *FAIRY PRINCESS!* I ... I'M *BEAUTIFUL!*

YOU ALWAYS WERE, SPORT, ONLY YOU NEVER NOTICED.

I FEEL SILLY. I THINK PLAYING "CONAN"...

...IS NOT MY STYLE. PERHAPS *FRED ASTAIRE.*

< SENHORA Da COSTA, YOU ARE WANTED OUTSIDE-- IT IS A CHAUFFEUR, I BELIEVE. > *

< PROBABLY SENT BY MY HUSBAND. THANK YOU, SENHORA GOULART.>

GET YOUR STREET CLOTHES ON, CHILDREN. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

*TRANSLATED FROM THE PORTUGESE --LINGUIST LOUISE.

WE GOT HER!

:MMMNNMPGH!:

SAL'S COSTUME SHOP

HUSTLE HER INTO THE CAR--

--AN' LET'S *ROLL* THIS SUCKER!

BOBBY, YOUR MOMMA'S BEIN' *KIDNAPPED!*

AH RECOGNIZE THE UNIFORM -- THOSE GOONS BELONG TO THE *HELLFIRE CLUB!*

A THOUGHT IGNITES THE THERMO-CHEMICAL REACTION THAT IS THE HEART OF CANNONBALL'S POWER AND SENDS HIM CRASHING INTO THE STREET WITH ALL THE FORCE OF HIS NAME-SAKE. FAST AS THE CAR IS, HE KNOWS IT CAN'T OUTRUN HIM.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE OPPOSITION HAS ANTICIPATED THAT.

OWW!

THROWN OFF-BALANCE, HE GOES CAREENING INTO A NEARBY, DERELICT BUILDING...

... AND BRINGS IT TUMBLING DOWN.

SOMETHING HIT SAM -- HE'S BURIED -- WE'VE GOT TO DIG HIM OUT!

WHAT ABOUT MY MOTHER?!

THE VILLAINS ARE *GETTING AWAY!*

DON'T YOU FRET NONE 'BOUT YO' MOMMA, BOY. SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS.

YOU MIND YO' MANNERS, YOU DON'T GET HURT.

WHO-- ?!

Uh-oh!

BLESSED SAINTS!

I'M AXE!!

MESS WITH ME, YOU BE CHOPPED DOWN TO SIZE-- YOU DIG?!

STAND ASIDE, BRAGGART-- OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

I WARNED YOU, BOY.

MAYBE MY SPIRIT-FORMS CAN STOP AXE-- BY CONFRONTING HIM WITH HIS DEEPEST FEARS!

THEY TOL' ME 'BOUT YOU AN' YO' POWER, INJUN.

SLAP!

TROUBLE FO' YOU IS, AXE DON'T SCARE!

YOU RUNNIN', LI'L GIRL? SMARTEST MOVE I SEEN ALL DAY.

DON'T SEE WHY THE BOSS WAS SO WIRED ABOUT YOU CHUMPS. YOU EASY PICKIN'S FO' ME.

THERE THEY GO-- BUT AH'M TOO GROGGY, CAN'T FOCUS MY CONCENTRATION ENOUGH TO BLAST. BY THE TIME AH'M ABLE, THEY'LL HAVE TOO BIG A HEAD START.

AH DON'T KNOW RIO-- AN' AH'M STILL NOT TOO GOOD AT MANEUVERIN'-- AH'D MOST LIKELY LOSE 'EM IN ALL THESE NARROW, WINDING STREETS -- AN' MAYBE HURT SOME INNOCENT PERSON, OR BOBBY'S MOM IN THE BARGAIN.

AH'D BEST CHECK ON THE OTHERS...

... THEN WE CAN FIGURE OUR NEXT MOVE.

DANI! BOBBY!

THING IS, WHAT DOES THE HELLFIRE CLUB WANT WITH Mrs. DaCOSTA -- ARE THEY TRYIN' TO GET AT US THROUGH HER?

HEY-- WHERE'S RAHNE?!

<Mrs. GOULART, CALL THE POLICE, TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENED! >

< AIIEEE-- MY SHOP-- IT'S RUINED! WHO'LL PAY THE DAMAGES?! >

< PAPA WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING. >

GUYS-- A MINDCALL!

IT'S RAHNE!

AFTER DUCKING OUT OF AXE'S SIGHT, SHE SAYS, SHE SWITCHED TO WOLF-FORM.

"AND NOW, SHE'S FOLLOWING THEIR TRAIL!"

MOONRISE...

YOU CERTAIN THAT'S THE HIDEOUT, DANI?

IT'S WHERE RAHNE LED US.

WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR, THEN?! LET'S CALL THE POLICE OR, BETTER YET, KICK THEIR BUTTS OURSELVES!

NO, SAM. NOT THAT. NOT... YET.

HELLFIRE CLUB OPERATIVES ARE KILLERS. IF WE GO OFF HALF-COCKED, MOTHER COULD BE KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE AND CONFUSION...

...JUST AS *JULIANA SANDOVAL* WAS.

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

LET ME CONTACT RAHNE, THROUGH OUR PSILINK.

"MAYBE SHE CAN GIVE US AN IDEA OF THE CREEPS' PLANS."

*DEEP WITHIN THE MANSION, **WOLFSBANE**-- IN HER HALF-HUMAN, HALF-LUPINE TRANSITIONAL FORM --*

--RELAYS WHAT SHE OVERHEARS TO HER CHEYENNE TEAM-MATE OVER THE PSYCHIC RAPPORT DANI SHARES WITH ALL ANIMALS.

YOUR MOM'S IN NO DANGER, 'BERTO--UNLESS THEY'RE CORNERED--UNTIL DAWN, WHEN THEIR EMPLOYER ARRIVES TO DECIDE HER FATE.

THAT MEANS WE DARE NOT SUMMON THE POLICE. IT'S TOO RISKY.

TOO BAD YOUR HERO, *THOMAS MAGNUM, P.I.*, ISN'T AVAILABLE, BOBBY. I BET HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A JIFFY.

OF *COURSE!*

SNAP

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE, IT'S A GREAT IDEA!

HOWWLLL

WHAT WAS THAT?!

THE WIND, CHUMP, OR A DOG LOOKIN' FOR A LITTLE LOVIN'.

YOU CLOWNS ARE PATHETIC. I WAS TOLD I BE WORKIN' WITH *MEN*, NOT A BUNCH'A *WIMPS*, SPOOKED BY THEIR OWN SHADOWS.

GET OFF OUR BACKS, AXE! THIS "BRILLIANT" HIDEOUT OF YOURS IS HAUNTED--AND ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THESE GHOSTS *KILL*!

DO TELL.

GHOSTS BOTHER ME AS MUCH AS PEOPLE--AN' THAT'S NOT AT ALL!

SEARCH THE PLACE, IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

AN' IF'N YOU GOT THE *GUTS*!

STINKIN' MUTIE-- ONE O' THESE DAYS, HE'LL PUSH ME TOO FAR!

SURE IS DARK OUT HERE--MY FLASHLIGHT'S NEXT TO USELESS --AND THIS PLACE IS A LOT BIGGER THAN IT LOOKS. GOTTA BE CAREFUL, IT'S FALLIN' DOWN AROUND OUR EARS.

AWFUL QUIET, ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I NEVER SHOULD'A SHOT MY MOUTH OFF-- WHY DIDN'T I BRING ONE O' THE OTHERS AS A BACK-UP?!

WHAT KEPT YOU, LOVER?

WHO SAID THAT?!

NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, SWEETIE.

WE'RE JUST GIRLS OUT LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D ENJOY THAT.

WE LOCKED THE DOORS AND WINDOWS--

--HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?!

THAT ISN'T IMPORTANT.

AFTER ALL, HOW OFTEN DOES A MAN COME FACE TO FACE...

... WITH HIS HEART'S DESIRE?

HARDLY THAT, DEAR BOY--

--MERELY THAT WHICH YOU FEAR MOST.

HUH?!? WHAT'S HAPPENING?! YOU'RE DIFFERENT!

YOUR HANDS-- FACES-- YOU'RE NOT ANGELS!

YOU'RE DEMONS!

GET AWAY FROM ME! DON'T TOUCH ME--

YEARRGH

WHEW!E I'VE PRACTICED PULLING SPECIFIC TYPES OF IMAGES-- GOOD AND BAD-- BACK HOME IN THE DANGER ROOM, BUT DOING IT IN THE FIELD IS A LOT HARDER. I'VE NEVER FELT SO TIRED.

IT'S NA' OVER YET, DANI!

DUCK!

'BERTO'S PLAN IS WORKING! RAHNE'S HOWLING MADE THE GOONS SO EDGY THAT THEIR PAL'S SCREAM BROUGHT THEM ON THE RUN! THEY'RE REACTING IN A PANIC, WITHOUT THINKING.

I HAVE TO PUT THEM OUT OF ACTION--

"-- BEFORE RAHNE AND I GET SHOT TO PIECES."

PSYCHE REACHES INTO THEIR MINDS, SEEKING THEIR MOST PRIVATE TERRORS, THEN MAKES THEM REAL, THROUGH HER SPIRIT-FORMS-- CREATING ILLUSIONS SO PERFECT THEY SEEM LIKE LIFE ITSELF

SHE KNOWS THIS HAS TO BE DONE BUT--SEEING HER VICTIMS' REACTIONS--

-- IT DOESN'T MAKE HER FEEL ANY BETTER.

BEFORE ANY OF THE MEN CAN RECOVER FROM DANI'S PSYCHIC ONSLAUGHT...

... RAHNE IS AMONG THEM...

...WITH DANI HOT ON HER HEELS.

ONE DOWN!

AYE -- AN' THIS MAKES TWO --

--AN' THIS *FINISHES* THE LOT!

DID YOU *SEE*, DANI?! I TOSSED THOSE VILLAINS ABOUT LIKE THEY WEIGHED *NOTHING!*

I GOTTA ADMIT, WHEN 'BERTO TOLD US HIS PLAN, I HAD MY DOUBTS. THEY DON'T WORK ALL THE TIME, EVEN FOR MAGNUM.

BUT WE'VE DONE OUR PART, RAHNE. THE REST IS UP TO THE BOYS.

AXE!

THAT'S AS *FAR* AS YOU GO, RUNT--

--OR I GUT YO' MAMA!

YOUR THREATS DO NOT IMPRESS ME, MERCENARY.

THOOM!

THE FLOOR!

YOUR MIND MADE UP, BOBBY ?

DO YOUR JOB, SAM. THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND AXE-- ALONE!

AH HOPE AH'M NOT MAKIN' A MISTAKE BY LEAVIN' HIM.

HOLD ON TIGHT, MA'AM...

...AN' DON'T BE SCARED. AH'M PRETTY NEAR INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'...

...AN' SO'S WHOMEVER AH'M CARRYIN'.

WHAT ABOUT MY SON?!

HE'LL BE ALONG DIRECTLY...

"...SOON AS HE'S TAKEN CARE O' BUSINESS."

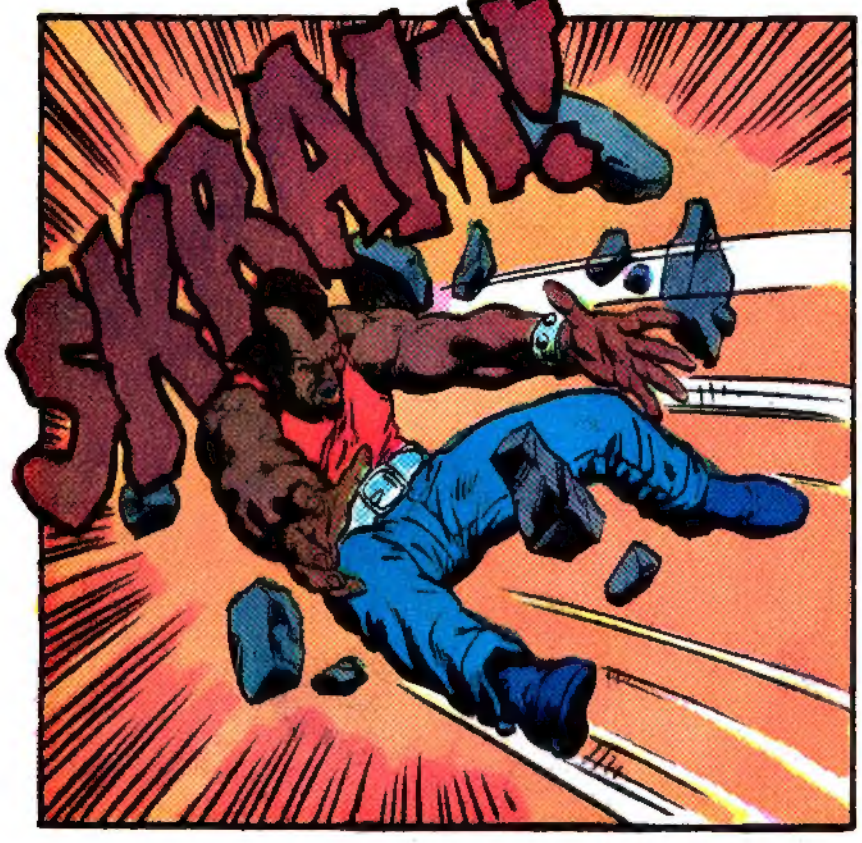
ON YOUR FEET, AXE.

SUCKER, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU REGRET YOU WAS EVER BORN!

YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE BEFORE. NO SUCH LUCK THIS TIME.
BWAP!

HAH! IF THAT WAS THE BEST YOU COULD DO--!

WHUD!


SKRAM!

IT WASN'T.

SANTOS DUMONT AIRPORT, NEAR THE BASE OF CORCOVADO --RIO'S FAMED SUGAR LOAF PEAK..:

THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN HECTIC, WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIP BEING CONTINUALLY DISRUPTED BY THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF NINA'S KIDNAPPING.

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EXCITEMENT HAS BEEN BUILDING ALL MORNING, AS THE NEW MUTANTS HELP LOAD NINA'S PIPER SENECA FOR THE LONG FLIGHT NORTH TO MANAUS, ON THE AMAZON ITSELF.

WHAT'S'A MATTER, HOTSHOT? YOU'VE BEEN GLUM SINCE BREAKFAST.

I DON'T THINK THE DANGER TO MY MOTHER IS OVER.

WE'LL LOOK OUT FOR HER, BOBBY, BUT IF Y'ALL ASK ME--

--SHE'S ONE LADY WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF!

TIME'S WASTING, CHILDREN! LET'S GO!

THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR OPERATIVES IS HARDLY AN INDUCEMENT FOR ME TO JOIN THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*, SEBASTIAN.

YOU ASSURED ME THEY WOULD DEAL WITH NINA.

YOU WANTED HER UNHURT, THAT CREATED PROBLEMS. ALSO, I THOUGHT AXE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE NEW MUTANTS.

WE'RE STILL PREPARED TO OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE, EMMANUEL.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, MY FRIEND. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, NINA'S EXPIDITION WILL NOT SUCCEED. SHE WILL NOT REACH THE *MADERÍA*.

EVEN IF THAT MEANS THE DEATH OF YOUR WIFE AND SON?

NEXT ISSUE: **THE ROAD TO... ROME?**

MINUTEMEN

Quick STOP

RST